



**WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS**

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

**SGMA NEWS**

## **COUNTY GSA COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Committee Meeting**

(for the Madera, Chowchilla, and Delta-Mendota Subbasins)

**September 2, 2025 - 1:30 p.m.**

Meeting Location: Madera County Government Center  
200 W. 4th Street, Madera CA 93637; Board of Supervisors Chambers

#### **REMOTE PARTICIPATION**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86301588537>

The Madera County GSA Committee, consisting of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board, will be meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the Madera County Board of Supervisors Chambers. The purpose of this committee is to receive public input on the County GSA items. This is a public meeting, and all are welcome to join.

The agenda and packet for this meeting are on the Madera County Water website: [Click Here for Packet](#)

These documents are also available at the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, acting on behalf of the Madera County GSAs.

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**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER  
MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

**DWR Releases Draft Best Management Practices on Managing  
Land Subsidence in California**

**Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. Clovis Veterans Hall, 808  
4th Street, Clovis, CA 93612**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released a [draft Best Management Practices document](#) for public comment, to help local water agencies address land subsidence, support groundwater reliant communities, and help meet objectives set by the [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act](#) (SGMA) to avoid or minimize current and future impacts of subsidence.

DWR is soliciting public feedback by hosting a series of public meetings across the state focused on the draft Best Management Practices document. These meetings will include an overview of the draft document and serve as a venue to ask questions and provide public comment; please see the information listed and flyer linked below for details. Note that registration is encouraged but not required - the flyer includes links for each event, which are for planning purposes only.

- [Press Release \(July 24, 2025\)](#)
- [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act \(SGMA\)](#)
- [DWR's SGMA Best Management Practices and Guidance Documents webpage](#)
- [Subsidence webpage](#) with [Subsidence 101 Factsheet](#) and more

- [What is Subsidence and How Does it Impact the Ground Beneath Our Feet \(June 2025\)](#)



## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

### Public Comment Period Opens for a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Chowchilla Subbasin

A modified groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) for the Chowchilla Subbasin (Subbasin) that has recently been submitted to the Department of Water Resources (Department) is now posted on the [SGMA Portal](#). This basin was returned to the Department's jurisdiction by the State Water Resources Control Board on June 6, 2025. The 2025 GSP will be reviewed by the Department and public comments will be considered as part of the review. The status of the Subbasin in the SGMA Portal will remain *Inadequate – Under Review* until the Department issues its new determination following the completion of the review. A 75-day public comment period is being held for the GSP. In the table below is a link to the submitted GSP, counties it covers, and the public comment period end date. Information about how to comment can be found in a public comment fact sheet, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Public comments are welcomed and encouraged. A SGMA Portal account is not necessary to submit comments.

Basin	Local ID (if applicable)	County Covered	Public Comment Period End Date
<a href="#">Chowchilla</a>	N/A	Madera Merced	9/28/2025

[Sustainable Groundwater Management Act \(SGMA\) Portal - Department of Water Resources](#)

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## FLOOD NEWS

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### Upcoming Lunch-MAR Sessions

**Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 12:30PM -1:30PM PT**

**How Much Water is Available for Recharge in the Central Valley?**

*Presenter: Caitlin Peterson, PPIC*

*Sneak Peek:* Designing better policies to bolster recharge during wet periods is key. But California's complex regulatory environment makes it difficult. In [a survey we conducted](#) last year, we found that even though California made great deal of progress on groundwater recharge during the banner wet year of 2023, a lot of water was left on the table. We suspected that more water could have been captured for recharge without impacting the environment or downstream users: approximately 3.5 million acre-feet, according to our initial estimate. PPIC will present their findings from a new report, where we unpack that number, explore the potential restrictions on using this water, and highlight the inter-agency partnerships that could help get more water in the ground in the future.

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### **Know your Flood Zones and Risks**

With weather patterns drastically changing from extreme drought to extreme flooding, it is crucial to understand the risks and potential costs of owning a home in a FEMA designated flood zone. Many people are attracted to land and homes in flood zones due to the proximity to water and the natural beauty associated with these areas. However, it is important to understand the type of flood zone you live in and the risks that are associated with it.

FEMA Classifies these flood zones by the type of flooding most likely to occur in the area. These can range from shallow sheet flooding, overbanking, or flash flooding to name a few. When building within these areas there are special regulations regarding any new construction or substantial improvements to help mitigate flood risks.

#### **Potential Risks and Costs:**

- **Property Damage:** Flooding can damage foundations, walls, flooring, furniture, and appliances.
- **Health Hazards:** Floodwater can carry bacteria, chemicals, and other hazards, potentially affecting indoor air quality and causing health issues.
- **Increased Insurance Costs:** Flood insurance can be expensive, especially in high-risk flood zones.
- **Reduced Property Value:** Homes in flood zones may be less desirable and have lower resale values.



- **Displacement:** In severe floods, residents may need to evacuate their homes.

For more information on Flood Way designation and regulations visit [Know Your Risk | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/know-your-risk)

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## DROUGHT

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### **Droughts don't just dry up water — they drain livelihoods and weaken local economies**

“Unlike hurricanes and floods, which arrive suddenly and tend to dominate headlines with dramatic images of wrecked homes and submerged towns, droughts are often overlooked by media, governments and markets because they unfold more slowly. Their gradual toll on fields, reservoirs and rural communities tends to be overshadowed by flashier disasters, but their consequences are no less severe. A drought is a shortage of precipitation — typically lasting a season or longer — that results in insufficient water availability for ecosystems,

agriculture and human use. As climate change accelerates, droughts are projected to become more frequent and intense, especially in dry regions. This makes it increasingly urgent to understand their complex impact on agriculture, water supplies and regional economies. ... ”

**Whole Article Here:** [THE CONVERSATION: Droughts don't just dry up water — they drain livelihoods and weaken local economies ~ MAVEN'S NOTEBOOK | California Water News Central](#)

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## EVENTS

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### **What Real Estate Professionals Need to Know about Homes with Well Water**

September 3, 2025 |

In this free webinar training, learn about what real estate agents should know when selling homes with private wells, including well water quality, how wells work, and other basic well information.

[Register »](#)

### **4-Hour Workshop: Private Well Assessment and Outreach for EHPs**

September 24, 2025 |

This 4-hour online workshop covers the use of our assessment tool for the evaluation of private well vulnerability to contamination and best practices for well owner outreach. Participants will learn private well fundamentals, how to assess a private well using the assessment tool, how to effectively engage private well owners, how to develop a program for outreach to well owners, and best

practices for managing a well owner program.

[Register »](#)

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**FRESNO STATE**

Jordan College of Agricultural  
Sciences and Technology

## **Smart Farm University Project**

### **Injury Liability & Insurance Basics**

Free educational workshop on which insurance coverage is best for protecting your business.

**September 05, 2025**  
**11:00am - 12:00pm**

**5370 N Chestnut Ave,**  
**Fresno, CA 93740**

**Laura Marquez**

[lauram@kitchentableadvisors.org](mailto:lauram@kitchentableadvisors.org)



**Registration:**




Juan Jose Rodriguez; Project Coordinator: 559-278-4844


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# WILDFIRE



# Town Hall

**The Pines Resort**

**Lakeview Room**

**Tuesday**

**September 16th**

**5:30pm - 7:30pm**

**Guest Speakers:**

Cal Fire - San Joaquin Valley APCD - Red Cross - Coarsegold RCD  
 Yosemite Gateway Prescribed Burn Cooperative - UC Cooperative Extension  
 Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council - Yosemite Sequoia RC&DC -  
**AND MORE!**

Programs - Resources - Assistance - Projects - Fire Code - Firewise Madera Communities -  
 Burn Season - Local Projects - Preparedness - Insurance - Open Q&A and discussions
















FAM CO is a resiliency strategy and planning initiative launched by Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization, whose goal is to reduce the overall wildfire risk to Eastern Madera through comprehensive community fuel reduction planning and education.

Funding for meetings is provided by a Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program block grant awarded to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy from the California Department of Conservation.



## OTHER NEWS



## Interactive map offers technical assistance for wildfire projects

The [California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force](#) has launched a new online resource to help applicants find technical assistance for wildfire projects in the state. The [new interactive map of California](#) provides contacts that can assist applicants with project development and implementation for each county in the state. Users click on a county shown on the state map to pull up a list of agency representatives organized by title, name, and email address. The [webpage](#) also provides a summary of wildfire-related programs available by agency.

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MADERA/CHOWCHILLA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



## INCREASING POLLINATORS ON YOUR OPERATION

The RCD has funding to help agricultural operations and working lands establish pollinator habitat.

Our RCD will:

**Visit** your site with a partner biologist specializing in pollinators and native plant species.

**Create** a plan in collaboration with landowner's needs.

**Fund** native plant supplies and other materials, if needed.

**Monitor** habitat and suggest maintenance annually.

**Questions?** Contact Amy ([amy@maderachowchillarcdd.org](mailto:amy@maderachowchillarcdd.org)) or Kevin ([programs@maderachowchillarcdd.org](mailto:programs@maderachowchillarcdd.org)) for more information

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Visit our website at:  
[maderacountywater.com](http://maderacountywater.com)

Have questions on your allocation, measurement, or any other GSA concern?  
[Schedule an appointment](#) with us! We can also be reached at (559) 662-8015, at  
the County Government Building on the third floor, or you can visit us online  
at [maderacountywater.com](http://maderacountywater.com).

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